



UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

★
Education, Research,
Patient Care and Service

Missing Persons DNA Database Report

March 3, 2011

UNTCHI Case Number 1: 10-1892

UNTCHI Case Number 2: 10-3583

Submitting Agency:

Dr. Sharron Derrick
Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences
1885 Old Spanish Trail
Houston, TX 77054

Agency Case Number: ML73-3355

NCIC Number: Not provided

NamUs Number: Not provided

ITEMS RECEIVED

Received via USPS on December 14, 2009:

10-1892.1 Family Reference Sample, **Erma L. Sickman**, representing the mother of missing person, **Steven K. Ferdig (Sickman)**

Received via Fed Ex (#865896383789) on October 12, 2010:

10-3583.1 Unidentified Remains Sample, bones

TESTING PERFORMED

Human DNA extracted from item **10-3583.1** was analyzed for fourteen (14) genetic loci using the Applied Biosystems AmpF ℓ STR Profiler Plus ID, COfiler, and MiniFiler systems; human DNA extracted from item **10-1892.1** was analyzed for fifteen (15) genetic loci using the Applied Biosystems AmpF ℓ STR Identifiler system. Items **10-1892.1** and **10-3583.1** were also analyzed for human mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) regions HV1 and HV2. Amplified mtDNA fragments were sequenced in the forward and reverse direction and compared to the revised Cambridge Reference Sequence (Andrews et al. *Nature Genetics* 1999).

The genetic data obtained from items **10-1892.1** and **10-3583.1** were uploaded into the *Relatives of Missing Person* and *Unidentified Human (Remains)* indices of the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). An association between these samples was noted.

RESULTS

The genetic data obtained from items **10-1892.1** and **10-3583.1** are consistent with the unidentified human remains originating from a biological child of **Erma L. Sickman**.

These genetic data (autosomal STRs and mitochondrial DNA) are approximately **35 million times more likely** to be observed under the scenario that the unidentified remains originated from a biological child of **Erma L. Sickman** as opposed to the unidentified remains originating from an unrelated individual from the Caucasian population.¹

The submission of additional first-order relatives could significantly increase the above statistical calculation. If additional statistical weight is needed, please contact the laboratory to determine which first-order relatives would provide the most informative comparisons.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to evaluate all associated case information in addition to the provided genetic results before declaring identity of the remains.

In the event that an identification is rendered by the appropriate legal authority, a copy of the death certificate must be submitted to the laboratory so that all genetic data obtained from the associated family reference sample(s) can be expunged from the CODIS database.

The remainder of the reference items and a portion of the submitted remains will be maintained by the UNT Center for Human Identification laboratory. Remaining items will be returned to the original submitting agency.

In the event that you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact the laboratory at 817-735-2143.

The above is the opinion of the undersigned, and this report shall not be reproduced without verbal or written permission.

¹ Allele frequency data obtained from Budowle et.al, J Forensic Sci 1999; 44(6):1277-1286; mtDNA frequency data obtained from Forensic Science Communications, April 2002, Volume 4, Number 2.

March 3, 2011
UNTCHI Case Numbers: 10-1892, 10-3583
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Missing Persons DNA Database Report

Sincerely,



Lisa Sansom
Forensic Analyst
UNT Center for Human ID



Lauren Jones
Forensic Analyst/Report Reviewer
UNT Center for Human ID

End of Report

Luis A. Sanchez, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner



Main: (713) 796-9292
Fax: (713) 796-6844

Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences

AMENDED AUTOPSY REPORT

Case 73 - 3355

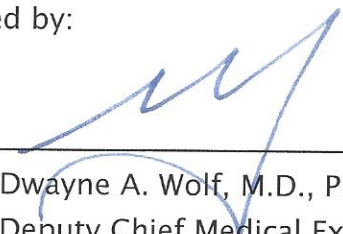
August 13, 1973

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS ON THE BODY OF

Steven Kent Ferdig-Sickman
6330 Jim Street
Houston, Texas

It is our opinion that the decedent, Steven Sickman,
came to his death as a result of asphyxia due to
strangulation - Homicide.

Amendment reviewed by:



Dwayne A. Wolf, M.D., Ph.D. 04/20/11
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner MMDDYY

COMMENT: These unidentified skeletal remains were originally incorrectly identified as Mark Steven Scott in January 1994. Subsequent DNA testing reported to this office on March 3, 2011, identifies the remains as those of 19 year old Steven Kent Ferdig-Sickman. This report is amended accordingly.

(See Companion Cases 73-3332, 73 -3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3337, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3350, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3356 and 73-3357.)

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

Steven Kent Ferdig-Sickman

6330 Jim Street

Houston, Texas

HISTORY: This body was one of seventeen bodies or skeletal remains recovered from Stall #11 at 4500 Silverbell Street, Houston, Texas, between 6:00 p.m. on August 8, 1973, and 8:00 p.m. on August 9, 1973. (See Companion Cases 73-3332, 73 -3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3337, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3350, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3356 and 73-3357.)

AUTOPSY: The autopsy was performed by Chief Medical Examiner Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., assisted by Assistant Medical Examiner G. Sheldon Green, M.D., and Ethel E. Erickson, M.D., and Dr. Paul G. Stimson, beginning at 3:10 p.m. on August 13, 1973, in the Harris County Morgue.

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: The specimen consisted of a number of skeletal remains, some soft tissues mostly eaten away with lime, and amorphous plaster-like material, within which the head, long bones, ribs and hair were recognizable. The total weight of the specimen, including the plastic crashbag, was 56 pounds. There was also a strand of nylon cord similar to that seen in the other specimens. The cord was tied tightly around the arms and legs in a bundled up position. This was similar to that seen in the other bodies. The length of the legs was 36 inches from ankle bone up to the tip of the hip bone. The noose was photographed separately and was made up of nylon cord. The hair on the skull was dark brown and measured up to 7-1/2 inches in length. This was an approximate length, because of the scattering of the hair in the total specimen. There were no items of clothing present with these remains. Most of the back was held in tact. There was some spinous musculature remaining. Most of the soft tissues, however, were gone. The right 8th, 9th and 10th ribs were fractured, posteriorly. The right 7th rib was a bifid rib.

The remains consisted of the following bones: skull, intact, Caucasian with predominantly male characteristics; mandible, intact; cervical vertebrae 3, 4, 6 and 7 (1, 2, and 5 missing); thoracic vertebrae 1 through 12; lumbar vertebrae 1 through 5; sacrum, right and left ilium, showing stage 2 fusion of the epiphyses of the iliac crests;

manubrium; left ribs 1 through 12; right ribs 2 through 12 (1 missing). There were fresh or very recent fractures of right ribs 8, 9 and 10, laterally. Rib 8 was completely broken. Ribs 9 and 10 showed greenstick type fractures with disruption of the lateral cortex and the medial cortex remaining intact. Right rib 7 was bifid. The right and left clavicles were present. The distal epiphyses showed stage 4 fusion. The proximal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion. The right and left scapulae were present. The corocoid and achromial epiphyses showed stage 4 fusion. The distal angle epiphyses showed stage 3 fusion. Also present were femur, right and left; tibia, right and left; fibula, right and left; left patella. Right foot, the following bones were present: calcaneus, talus, navicular, 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuneiform, cuboid, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th metatarsals. Left foot, the following bones were present: calcaneus, talus, navicular, 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuneiforms, cuboid, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th metatarsals. The right and left humeri were present. There was stage 4 fusion of both epiphyses. The right and left radii were present, showing stage 4 fusion of the proximal and distal epiphyses. The right and left ulnas were present, showing stage 4 fusion of the proximal and distal epiphyses. The left 3rd, 4th and 5th metacarpals and two proximal phalanges were present.

ESTIMATE OF AGE: The estimate of age was based upon the appearance of the base of the symphysis pubis. The symphysis was traversed by well defined ridge lines, but there was very slight early filling in between the posterior ends of the ridges. There was a well defined dorsal limiting margin. There was no evidence of a ventral bevel. The age was estimated at 20 to 21 years. The remainder of the skeleton was consistent with this age.

ESTIMATE OF HEIGHT: The estimate of height was based on the length of the femur, 50.2 centimeters. The height according to the formula of Trotter and Gleaser, white males, was 71-1/4 inches. A crosscheck for the general formula of Dupertuis and Hatten, males, was also 71-1/4 inches. Therefore, the height was estimated to be between 70 and 72-1/2 inches. The bones were moderately, but no unusually heavy. It was estimated that this individual had a medium build or was a medium framed person.

DENTAL EXAMINATION

The dental examination was performed by Paul G. Stimson, D.D.S., M.S.

Utilizing the Universal System, the upper right and left third molars are in the crypts. There is occlusal caries in the upper right second molar, tooth 2. Occlusal caries in the upper right first molar, tooth 3. The upper right lateral and central, the upper left central and lateral are avulsed. These are teeth 7, 8, 9 and 10. There is a diastema present between the upper left cuspid and first bicuspid, tooth 11 and 12. The upper left first molar has occlusal and buccal caries, tooth 14. The upper left second molar has occlusal caries, tooth 15. The lower left third molar, tooth 17, has occlusal caries. The lower left second molar, tooth 18, has mesial occlusal caries. The lower right second molar, tooth 31, has mesial occlusal caries. The lower right third molar, tooth 32, has occlusal caries. Both first lower molars, tooth 19 and tooth 30, have been extracted. The remaining molars have drifted mesially. There is a diastema present between the lower left cuspid and first bicuspid, tooth 22 and tooth 21. Tooth 24 and tooth 25 are in lingula version. Tooth 23 and tooth 26 are in mesial labial rotation. Tooth 22 and tooth 27 in labial version, with slight mesial labial rotation. There is a very high palatal vault with constriction of the maxillary arch. Jaw relationships - there is a Class III on the right side, Class I in the molar area on the left side. Both first molars are in cross-bite. There is an anterior open bite and flaring of the maxillary centrals.

HARRIS COUNTY INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES
1885 OLD SPANISH TRAIL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054
POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION REPORT

ML73-3355 - MEDICAL LEGAL

DECEDENT FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	TITLE
STEVEN	KENT	FERDIG-SICKMAN	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
6330 JIM STREET	HOUSTON	TX	
DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	AGE UNIT	PHONE
8/2/1954	19	YEARS	
INVESTIGATOR	DATE AND TIME OF REPORT		
SHARON DERRICK, PH.D	3/8/2011 2:43:00 PM		
IDENTIFICATION	NEXT OF KIN	RELATIONSHIP	
IDENTIFICATION IS POSITIVE	ERMA	MOTHER	
NOK ADDRESS			
6131 WEST FARM ROAD 140 SPRINGFIELD MO			

POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

As per UNT Center for Human Identification report dated March 3, 2011:

"The genetic data obtained from ML73-3355 and Erma L. Sickman are consistent with the unidentified human remains originating from a biological child of Erma L. Sickman. These genetic data (autosomal STRs and mitochondrial DNA) are approximately 35 million times more likely to be observed under the scenario that the unidentified remains originated from a biological child of Erma L. Sickman as opposed to the unidentified remains originating from an unrelated individual from the Caucasian populaiton."

This result reflects a misidentification of ML73-3355 as Mark Scott on January 4, 1994. ML73-3355 was released to the Scott family in January 1994. The decedent has been cremated and interred in the Scott family columbarium.

Derrick originally entered the name in the PathAssist system as Steven Sickman. The name was corrected by S. Derrick on 4/19/2011 at 4:09 PM to reflect the correct name of Steven Kent Ferdig-Sickman.



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Agency Case Number: ML73-3355
Missing Persons DNA Database Report

Sincerely,



Lisa Sansom
Forensic Analyst
UNT Center for Human ID



Lauren Jones
Forensic Analyst/Report Reviewer
UNT Center for Human ID

End of Report

JOSEPH A. JAGHIMCZYK, M.D., J.D.
FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER



228-8311
EXT. 671 (DAY)
EXT. 212 (NIGHT)

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
OF HARRIS COUNTY

HARRIS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

AUTOPSY REPORT

Case 73 - 3355

August 13, 1973

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS ON THE BODY :

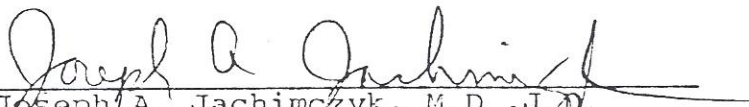
OF

Unknown #15

Asphyxia due to strangulation.

OPINION

It is our opinion that the decedent,
Unknown #15, came to his death as a
result of asphyxia due to strangulation -
Homicide.


Joseph A. Jaghimczyk, M.D., J.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

(See Companion Cases 73-3332, 73-3333, 73-3334, 73-3335,
73-3336, 73-3337, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349,
73-3350, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3356 and 73-3357.)

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF
UNKNOWN #15

HISTORY: This body was one of seventeen bodies or skeletal remains recovered from Stall #11 at 4500 Silverbell Street, Houston, Texas, between 6:00 p.m. on August 8, 1973, and 8:00 p.m. on August 9, 1973. (See Companion Cases 73-3332, 73-3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3337, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3350, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3356 and 73-3357.)

AUTOPSY: The autopsy was performed by Chief Medical Examiner Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., assisted by Assistant Medical Examiners G. Sheldon Green, M.D., and Ethel E. Erickson, M.D., and Dr. Paul G. Stimson, beginning at 3:10 p.m. on August 13, 1973, in the Harris County Morgue.

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: The specimen consisted of a number of skeletal remains, some soft tissues mostly eaten away with lime, and amorphous plaster-like material, within which the head, long bones, ribs and hair were recognizable. The total weight of the specimen, including the plastic crashbag, was 56 pounds. There was also a strand of nylon cord similar to that seen in the other specimens. The cord was tied tightly around the arms and legs in a bundled up position. This was similar to that seen in the other bodies. The length of the legs was 36 inches from ankle bone up to the tip of the hip bone. The noose was photographed separately and was made up of nylon cord. The hair on the skull was dark brown and measured up to 7-1/2 inches in length. This was an approximate length, because of the scattering of the hair in the total specimen. There were no items of clothing present with these remains. Most of the back was held intact. There was some spinous musculature remaining. Most of the soft tissues, however, were gone. The right 8th, 9th and 10th ribs were fractured, posteriorly. The right 7th rib was a bifid rib.

The remains consisted of the following bones: skull, intact, Caucasian with predominantly male characteristics; mandible, intact; cervical vertebrae 3, 4, 6 and 7 (1, 2 and 5 missing); thoracic vertebrae 1 through 12; lumbar vertebrae 1 through 5; sacrum, right and left ilium, showing stage 2 fusion of the epiphyses of the iliac crests; manubrium; left ribs 1 through 12; right ribs 2 through 12 (1 missing). There were fresh or very recent fractures of right ribs 8, 9 and 10, laterally. Rib 8 was completely broken. Ribs 9 and 10 showed

greenstick type fractures with disruption of the lateral cortex and the medial cortex remaining intact. Right rib 7 was bifid. The right and left clavicles were present. The distal epiphyses showed stage 4 fusion. The proximal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion. The right and left scapulae were present. The coracoid and acromial epiphyses showed stage 4 fusion. The distal angle epiphyses showed stage 3 fusion. Also present were femur, right and left; tibia, right and left; fibula, right and left; left patella. Right foot, the following bones were present: calcaneus, talus, navicular, 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuneiform, cuboid, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th metatarsals. Left foot, the following bones were present: calcaneus, talus, navicular, 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuneiforms, cuboid, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th metatarsals. The right and left humeri were present. There was stage 4 fusion of both epiphyses. The right and left radii were present, showing stage 4 fusion of the proximal and distal epiphyses. The right and left ulnas were present, showing stage 4 fusion of the proximal and distal epiphyses. The left 3rd, 4th and 5th metacarpals and two proximal phalanges were present.

ESTIMATE OF AGE: The estimate of age was based upon the appearance of the base of the symphysis pubis. The symphysis was traversed by well defined ridge lines, but there was very slight early filling in between the posterior ends of the ridges. There was a well defined dorsal limiting margin. There was no evidence of a ventral bevel. The age was estimated at 20 to 21 years. The remainder of the skeleton was consistent with this age.

ESTIMATE OF HEIGHT: The estimate of height was based on the length of the femur, 50.2 centimeters. The height according to the formula of Trotter and Gleaser, white males, was 71-1/4 inches. A crosscheck for the general formula of Dupersius and Hatten, males, was also 71-1/4 inches. Therefore, the height was estimated to be between 70 and 72-1/2 inches. The bones were moderately, but not unusually heavy. It was estimated that this individual had a medium build or was a medium framed person.

DENTAL EXAMINATION

Utilizing the Universal System, the upper right and left third molars are in the crypts. There is occlusal caries in the upper right second molar, tooth 2. Occlusal caries in the upper right first molar, tooth 3. The upper right lateral and central, the upper left central and lateral are avulsed. These are teeth 7, 8, 9 and 10. There is a diastema present between the upper left cuspid and first bicuspid, tooth 11 and 12. The upper left first molar has occlusal and buccal caries, tooth 14. The upper left second molar has occlusal caries, tooth 15. The lower left third molar, tooth 17, has occlusal caries. The lower left second molar, tooth 18, has mesial occlusal caries. The lower right second molar, tooth 31, has mesial occlusal caries. The lower right third molar, tooth 32, has occlusal caries. Both first lower molars, tooth 19 and tooth 30, have been extracted. The remaining molars have drifted mesially. There is a diastema present between the lower left cuspid and first bicuspid, tooth 22 and tooth 21. Tooth 24 and tooth 25 are in lingual version. Tooth 23 and tooth 26 are in mesial labial rotation. Tooth 22 and tooth 27 in labial version, with slight mesial labial rotation. There is a very high palatal vault with constriction of the maxillary arch. Jaw relationships - there is a Class III on the right side, Class I in the molar area on the left side. Both first molars are in cross-bite. There is an anterior open bite and flaring of the maxillary centrals.



Paul G. Stimson, D.D.S., M.S.

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

73-3355

Investigator: L. C. Kelly

Case No. 73-3350

Decedent: UNKNOWN #15 Race W Sex M Age _____
 Address: UNKNOWN
 Death: FOUND August 9, 1973 Approx. Time 7:30 ~~A.M.~~ P.M.
 Place of Death: UNKNOWN
 Place of Inquest: Harris County Morgue and 4500 Silverbell Street, Houston, Texas
 Date and Time of Inquest: August 9, 1973 A.M. P.M.
 Location, Position, and Surroundings of Body:

Clothing: The decedent was nude.

Information:

- 73-3349: Unknown #11-Found in the middle of Stall #11; Head to the west; at 4:00 p.m.
- 73-3350: Unknown #12-Found in the middle of Stall #11; Head to the east; at 4:00 p.m.
- 73-3353: Unknown #13-Found in the middle of Stall #11 and next to the front door; Head to the north; at approximately 6:00 p.m.
- 73-3354: Unknown #14-Found in the middle of Stall #11 and next to the front door; Head to the south; at approximately 6:00 p.m.
- 73-3355: Unknown #15-Found north end of Stall #11; Head to the east next east side of Stall #11; at approximately 7:30 p.m.
- 73-3356: Unknown #16-Found six feet from center of north door; Head to the east; at approximately 8:00 p.m.
- 73-3357: Unknown #17-Found six feet from center of north door beside Unknown #16; Head to east; at approximately 8:00 p.m.

L. C. Kelly
 L. C. Kelly *L.C.K.*

(SEE COMPANION CASES: 73-3332, 73-3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3337, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3355, 73-3356, 73-3357)

Property: There was no property involved.

Transferred to Morgue by: William H. Posey Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., Galena Park, Texas
Bob Lee Funeral Home, Houston, Texas and Brookwood Funeral Home, Houston, Texas
 Funeral Home Conducting Service: